

## Petition P4-0019, filed on behalf of Florida longans producers.

### **Background:**

On February 23, 2004, the ***Federal Register*** published notice that the Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida represent Florida longans producers had filed a petition for trade adjustment assistance.

The petition indicated that the marketing year impacted by imports was June 2002 - July 2003. The 5-year base period used for the purpose of a price comparison began June 1997.

The petition identified imports of longans under Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) number 0810.90.30 as like or directly competitive with Florida longans under the same HTS number.

### **Analysis:**

The Florida longan industry claim that increased imports of fresh longans, specifically from Mexico and Taiwan, was a major influence on the record-low grower prices received during 2003 season. They reported an average grower price of \$1.24 per pound for 2003, compared with the previous five-year average of \$3.74 per pound (1998=\$5.15/lb, 1999=\$4.54/lb, 2000=\$3.51/lb, 2001=\$1.72/lb, and 2002=\$3.77/lb). While there are no officially reported statistics on production and price for the industry, interviews with packinghouses and county extension specialists revealed that 2003 was a bumper crop year for the growers. In addition, only five countries (Bahamas, Bermuda, China, Haiti, and Jamaica) are currently allowed to ship fresh longans into the U.S. market, according to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Imports from all other sources are currently prohibited to enter the United States.

Import data for fresh longans from the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce are not reported separately from other minor fruit, and are assumed to be included in the residual for imports in the all other fresh fruit HTS code. APHIS, however, keeps records of import shipments entering various ports across the United States. Based on their records, there have been no imports of fresh longans from 1998 to 2003 from any of the five countries approved to ship this fresh-market product to the U.S. market. Since there are no fresh longan imports reported, the petition does not meet the criteria of imports increasing from the previous year.

### **Reason for denial of petition:**

The key factor contributing to the decline in producer prices was the growth in U.S. production. Because increased imports did not contribute importantly to the decline in domestic producer prices, the petition was denied. Notice was published in the ***Federal Register*** on April 5, 2004.

